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Combat ready *Pacific Air Forces inspectors put approval stamp on wing*

By Capt. Warren Comer
 374th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

The 374th Airlift Wing completed its Operational Readiness Inspection March 17. This was the wing's first ORI in eight years.

The inspection was accomplished after more than a year of exercises and readiness training events that focused on the wing's airlift mission as well as its force provider mission for the Global War on Terrorism.

The wing proved to the Pacific Air Forces' Inspector General team that the base is ready to accomplish its most difficult theater contingency taskings.

The wing earned an overall rating of satisfactory for the ORI and wing leaders said that Airmen proved their combat readiness during an extremely challenging exercise scenario and inspection.

"The PACAF IG gave us a tough task and we passed," said Col. Scott Goodwin, 374th Airlift Wing commander. "I am proud of this wing and you should be proud of yourselves."

During the ORI outbrief Tuesday, PACAF inspectors pointed out that the wing is supporting the Global War on Terrorism with personnel and equipment that are also key and essential for the wing's theater airlift mission. "We conducted this ORI when our nation is

at war," said Col. Donald Weckhorst, PACAF Inspector General. "Overall the wing is fully combat and mission ready."

The intent of the IG team is to provide and independent assessment of wing's combat readiness. They generally test an airlift wing's ability to deploy and received personnel, prepare cargo for transport to other locations, conduct noncombatant evacuation operations and test the wing's ability to survive and operate in a wartime environment.

Tactical airlift earned an excellent rating due to the airlift provided during Exercise Balikatan and mudslide relief efforts in the Philippines. There were numerous individual and team outstanding performers recognized by the IG team. Efforts by these Airmen went above and beyond the requirements.

"I was surprised," said Tech. Sgt. Phillip Ramirez, 374th Comptroller Squadron non-commissioned officer in charge of the accounting liaison office, who was given a coin by Colonel Weckhorst for his hard work in making sure a deploying team had their cargo loaded on an aircraft so they could do their job in the field as well as supporting his unit control center and post attack reconnaissance team. "It feels good to be recognized, but you feel that everyone should be rewarded for the hard work that they're doing as well."



photos by Airman 1st Class John Albea

Above, a pair of C-130 Hercules here line up on the runway as they prepare to take off during the Operational Readiness Inspection March 15. Right, 1st Lt. Ty Flinton, 36th Airlift Squadron, and Staff Sgt. Jason Bremer go through the Contamination Control Area March 15. The 374th Airlift Wing was inspected by Pacific Air Forces Inspector General Team.



Keeping it connected



photo by Staff Sgt. Jennifer Redente

Airman 1st Class Jay Pickle, deployed from the 374th Logistics Readiness Squadron to Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, connects a hose to a fuel truck.

Air Force Assistance Fund campaign begins Monday, sets goal near \$50K

By Senior Airman Katie Thomas
 Editor

The Air Force encourages its Airmen to take care of each other, and one way is through their wallets.

The service's senior leadership is asking its own to give to the annual Air Force Assistance Fund campaign that kicks off here Monday.

Airmen and their families are encouraged to participate.

"(In 2005), hurricanes Katrina and Rita vividly demonstrated the need for rapid and reliable emergency assistance. Our four AFAF charities provided immediate financial and housing assistance. This was in addition to their normal ongoing assistance with the hardships of deployments, accidents, illness, aging and death," said Secretary of the Air Force Michael Wynne and Air Force Chief of Staff

Gen. T. Michael Moseley.

"This year, Yokota has established a \$48,937 goal," said Master Sgt. Tracy Tapp, 374th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron member and AFAF representative. "With just a little help from everyone, this goal can be met."

People can choose from four different charities. These charities directly benefit Airmen serving on active duty, in the Reserve or National Guard, and also those who are retired. Families and surviving spouses of Airmen who have died can also benefit.

"Since my enlistment, I have seen my Air Force family taking care of its own under many different circumstances," said Sergeant Tapp. "Knowing that this family network is available to me and my family gives me the peace of mind to perform my job with one less distraction whether at home base or while deployed."

The charities that Airmen and

their families can give to include:

⇒ the Air Force Enlisted Villages (www.afenlistedwidows.org);
 ⇒ the Air Force Villages (www.airforcevillages.com);
 ⇒ the LeMay Foundation (www.lemayfoundation.org);
 ⇒ and the Air Force Aid Society (www.afas.org).

Airmen can visit each organization's Web site for more information about that particular organization.

Unit representatives will visit their fellow Airmen throughout the campaign to provide more information about AFAF and donation forms.

In 2005, the Air Force raised \$5.9 million for the four charities combined. Secretary of the Air Force Michael Wynne has set this year's total goal at \$5.2 million.

The base's AFAF campaign ends May 5.

For more information or to make a donation, call 225-5908.

Base's motorcycling community gets, gives mentorship

Program kicks off Monday, encourages riders through meetings, safety Web site

By Capt. Ben Alumbaugh
374th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

The 374th Airlift Wing safety office is taking a 5th Air Force initiative and giving it a little twist.

Fifth Air Force has provided all of its bases with a motorcycle mentor program to help newer riders, so the wing safety office is building a Web site to provide local riders with information to protect

themselves and their fellow riders.

Tech. Sgt. Mario Dacosta, 374th Airlift Wing safety office, works in the field of human factors and is spearheading the Web site.

"I wanted to provide an informal way for riders to be able to ask questions and participate in discussions without having to deal with any sort of peer pressure," he said. "A person can post on the Web site anonymously and feel free to ask any question."

"The main goal of the mentor program is to have Airmen take care of Airmen," said Master Sgt. Garius Neal, non-commissioned officer in charge of 374th Airlift Wing safety office. "This is the wingman concept and will especially help the new riders."

The Web site is another avenue for getting crucial instructions to riders besides the monthly meetings, said Sergeant Dacosta. "Not everyone can make a meeting due to real world commitments, so the Web site gives them the opportunity to absorb the information anytime."

The motorcycle mentor program is not a new concept, but it is a simple one. Each squadron identifies its most capable and ma-

ture riders, based not on age but rather motorcycle operating experience and demonstrated proficiency. These mentors are charged with keeping their respective fingers on the pulse of the squadron's riding community and provide a regular forum to share practical information and camaraderie.

That is where the Web site comes into play. According to the wing safety office, having organized networks of skilled riders in place, it's believed that a smarter, more safety-conscious riding community will evolve and lives will be saved.

The kick-off motorcycle mentoring meeting is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. Monday at the Taiyo Recreation Center.

Yokota Airman helps train new Iraq Airmen stand up new Air Force

By Master Sgt. Will Ackerman
447th Air Expeditionary Group Public Affairs

NEW AL MUTHANA AIR BASE, Iraq – Iraqi's new air force flying operations have received much publicity recently. But a military must have a base to call home.

A team of U.S. Air Force Airmen spent more than a year helping Iraq's air force establish its "only" base with a support unit.

About a year ago, the New Al Muthana Air Base was just a shell. The base had an old aircraft hangar that suffered substantial damage from the coalition war against the old Iraq regime.

The American Airmen helped their Iraqi partners raise the new air base from the ground up. The Iraqi Ministry of Defense formally activated the new air base and its C-

130E Hercules unit, the 23rd Squadron, in a ceremony March 7.

"The place was just a construction site," said Capt. Greg Holmgren, Multinational Security Transition Command Iraq, Coalition Air Force Transition Team base defense adviser, deployed from the 374th Security Forces Squadron, Yokota Air Base, Japan. "One of the greatest things about coming here when the place was torn up has been watching the place develop."

Although civilian contractors built facilities including dormitories and offices, the U.S. Airmen trained the Iraqis about mission support functions including communications, security forces, civil engineering, contract monitoring and unit administration.

"Everything we are accustomed to on an Air Force base,

these folks spent unlimited time to get (the Iraqi airmen) to understand the way a base should be run," said Col. Richard Haddad, the senior transition team director.

For both the flying and base support operations, communication equipment is critical. Staff Sgt. Timothy Ragel, the U.S. communications adviser here, helped the Iraqi airmen plan and start to build their communications infrastructure.

He's also trained them in basic communication skills such as computers, tactical radios, hardware switches and routers. Although the United States gave the Iraqi airmen some computers to get started, not everyone will initially have one.

"The biggest challenge is getting them up to speed with technology," Sergeant Ragel said.

Although the American civil

engineers have not built the buildings that make up the new air base, they are teaching the Iraqi airmen to ensure the contractors' work is up to acceptable building standards. But the main focus now for the lone U.S. Air Force civil engineer is teaching the Iraqis how to maintain the new facilities.

"The key is finding the right people with the right expertise and the right tools to (maintain the facilities) in a safe way," said Master Sgt. Carlos Aponte. "Right now the (Iraqi airmen) are relying on the contractors. I am trying to make them realize the buildings will need maintaining."

To ensure the base's security, Captain Holmgren teaches the Iraqis how to protect it. He's helped them establish and operate an armory and run a security forces flight

plus base defense skills. "The safety and security is critical to this base," he said. "We want to put them on their feet so they can ensure positive security once we are gone."

Captain Holmgren said they've also had to instill a paradigm shift from the old Iraqi regime. "Many of them were used to the old way, when they wouldn't do anything without being told to do it," he said. "I am teaching the NCOs to take initiative and make decisions."

The New Al Muthana Air Base vice commander said the biggest challenge is "trust."

"If you succeed with the trust, then you can make anything happen," said Col. Mohammed. "There is a unique relationship between the (U.S. Airmen) and the (Iraqi airmen). They are like family. It does not feel like work."

NEWS AROUND THE AIR FORCE & PACAF

For these stories and more, visit Air Force Link at www.af.mil

Airman Battle Uniform finalized, ready for production: WASHINGTON (AFPN) – The new Airman Battle Uniform is ready for production and will be available in fiscal 2007, said the Air Force deputy chief of staff of personnel. Many factors were considered in developing the final uniform selection, with the concern for Airmen being at the top of the list, said Brig. Gen. Robert Allardice.

Chief of staff releases 'Letter to Airmen': SAN ANTONIO (AFPN) – In his latest "Letter to Airmen," Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley remembered the third anniversary of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

This "Letter to Airmen," released March 20, and other senior leader viewpoints can be found on the library section of Air Force Link.

Nihon-go now

⇒ Are you hungry?

Onaka wa suite imasuka.
(oh-nah-kah wah soo-ee-teh ee-mah-soo-kah.)

⇒ I like to eat Japanese food.

Watashi wa Nihon-shoku ga tabetai desu.
(wah-tah-shee wah nee-ha-on sho-koo gah tah-beh-tah-ee dess.)

AD

Family Support Center
hosts modeling fair

By Senior Airman Katie Thomas
Editor

Community members are invited to a spring modeling fair April 1. More than two dozen modeling agencies will be on-hand at the Family Support Center auditorium to interview interested applicants from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The agencies are looking to fill a variety of jobs including magazines and commercials with infants to full-grown adults. “This is a great opportunity for any one here who has wanted to pursue this kind of work,” said Stacey Mortensen, customer representative of marketing at the FSC. “This is the most agencies we have had in a few years.” Community members must call or sign up at the FSC by March 29 to participate. Participants must fill out an application form the day of the fair, bring at least one personal photo and an admittance ticket to attend the fair. Participants are encouraged to bring portfolios and samples of other previous work they have done. “People should wear what they feel comfortable in but remember to also look presentable,” said Mrs. Mortensen. For more information or to sign up, call 225-8725 or visit the FSC, located near the Yokota Community Center.

Commissaries’ steps to stop counterfeit coupons
Shoppers advised to look for dot-scan bars below expirations dates when printing online

By Rick Brink
Defense Commissary Agency

FORT LEE, Va. (AFPN) – Be careful how you get your Internet coupons, say Defense Commissary Agency officials. They are alerting customers about a recent rise in the use of fraudulent Internet or home-printed coupons and steps the agency has taken to address the issue. “Counterfeit coupons are circulating on the Internet through auction services, message boards, e-mails and other means causing millions of dollars in losses to the grocery industry,” said Scott Simpson, DeCA’s chief operating officer. Commissaries gladly accept Internet or home-printed coupons provided they meet these requirements: the coupons must have “dot-scan” bars below expiration dates or bar codes with Product Identification Numbers, or PINs, and they can’t be for free products. Legitimate Internet coupons are featuring new dot-scan bars below their expiration dates. The dot-scan bars look like bar codes with broken bar patterns. This is an expansion of acceptance criteria for home-printed coupons because counterfeit coupons have shown up recently in commissaries and other supermarkets nationwide. Officials are pointing to Internet trading as the source of the counterfeit coupons.

Fraudulent coupons presented recently at commissaries were for products ranging from laundry detergents and deli meats to sodas and over-the-counter medications. Defining more stringent requirements for stores to accept home-printed coupons is one phase of action the agency is taking to combat the problem. Educating customers about how to avoid getting taken by counterfeit coupons is the other phase, and it’s been described as the best line of defense against possible fraud, Mr. Simpson said. People who purchase or trade coupons are inherently at risk of receiving counterfeit coupons, therefore customers shouldn’t buy or trade for coupons. The sale or transfer of coupons is a violation of virtually all manufacturers’ coupon redemption policies, according to the Coupon Information Center – a coupon industry watchdog. These policies are printed on the coupons. Customers can be assured they are not obtaining counterfeits if they get their coupons directly from newspapers or magazines, directly from a manufacturer or from some other legitimate coupon channel including Internet sites. Here are some tips to avoid possible counterfeit coupons: ⇒ Look for the dot-scan bar below the expiration date on Internet coupons. If they don’t have a dot-scan bar, look for

a PIN and bar code. Many now have both a dot-scan bar along with a PIN and bar code. ⇒ Look out for coupons printed on photocopy, plain white, photographic or card stock and coupons with fuzzy images or misspelled words. ⇒ Look out for unusually long expiration dates. ⇒ Look out for coupons sent in electronic format by someone other than a manufacturer or its authorized representative. ⇒ Look out for coupons with printing on only one side. ⇒ Look out for multiple coupons for the same product with identical PINs. The Defense Commissary Agency operates a worldwide chain of commissaries providing groceries to military personnel, retirees and their families in a safe and secure shopping environment. Authorized patrons purchase items at cost plus a five-percent surcharge, which covers the costs of building new commissaries and modernizing existing ones. Shoppers can save an average of 30 percent or more on their purchases compared to commercial prices – savings worth about \$2,700 annually for a family of four. For more information about internet coupons and base policies, community members should call the base commissary at 225-8585. (Senior Airman Katie Thomas, 374th Airlift Wing Public Affairs office, contributed to this article)

AD

Taking closer look at the joint military

By Lt. Col. John Park
374th Mission Support Squadron

The mission of the Air Force is to deliver sovereign options for the defense of the United States and its global interests – to fly and fight in air, space, and cyberspace. As a service, the Air Force provides capabilities vital to joint warfighting.

In light of that, before you lead or supervise Airmen, what do you owe them?

Years ago, I had the privilege to serve directly under a Navy captain and later an Army colonel while assigned to U.S. Central Command. These men shared the basic military leadership responsibilities or what they “owed” their subordinates:

⇒ **Pledge a tireless dedication and professional commitment.** Discharge your duties to the best of your ability. This means 100 percent is the norm. Do not order or ask your troops to do anything you are not willing to do yourself.

⇒ **Accept other services’ values along with your service**

specific values. Our Air Force core values are integrity, service before self and excellence in all we do. The Army core values are loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity, and personal courage. The Navy and Marine Corps core values are honor, courage, and commitment. It’s not hard to see the “joint” or common threads between them.

⇒ **Know the rules and policies and operate within them.** This includes understanding the waiver authority for any regulation. Remember that service specific regulations and instructions are designed to support joint doctrine and guidance.

⇒ **Don’t be afraid to take intelligent risks and make decisions.** Trust your intuitions and those of your subordinates. Be forthright in your recommendations up the chain of command. Don’t be afraid of getting fired. A healthy amount of decentralized decision-making is beneficial. Let your subordinates know your expectations if other than those

decisions delegated or authorized by regulation.

⇒ **Provide feedback.** Daily feedback and communication is a given. Our Airman deserve honest, formal feedback in a timely manner. This feedback is conducive to enhancing productivity, good order and discipline. It is key to growing future leaders.

⇒ **Know yourself and your unit.** Know your own personal limitations and the limitations of your unit. Team build to minimize any known weaknesses and report lack of resources or training through your change of command.

⇒ **Don’t wait to be told to act.** If a task needs to be accomplished, start working it. Be proactive not reactive.

⇒ **Plan ahead for success.** Solid planning adds stability and focus to any operation. It is vital to the long-term readiness and morale of any organization.

⇒ **Take care of yourself and your troops – both mentally and physically.** Productivity, effective decision making and morale are all enhanced through proper diet, exercise and by addressing family

matters or concerns.

⇒ **Create an environment conducive to self-worth.** Your words and actions can be misinterpreted by subordinates or members of another service. Act accordingly to promote a professional environment at all times, both on and off duty.

⇒ **Do the right thing.** No matter how painful, unpleasant or unpopular, perform and carry out your duties as mandated by your commission or enlistment.

More and more of our Airmen are tasked as part of joint operations. While these points are not all inclusive, they will certainly provide a solid leadership foundation for any organizational level. You have the opportunity to enhance the mission effectiveness of our Airmen as well as prepare them to operate in a future joint environment. To succeed in that fight, they must be confident, possess a high degree of technical expertise and be able to operate independently, often without the assistance of another Airman. So don’t forget to give your Airmen what you owe them.

Base first sergeants encourage ‘old school’ understanding of base’s Japanese symbols

By Senior Master Sgt. Michael Breazell
Yokota First Sergeants Council

Units here are symbolically separated into two groups: the Samurai warriors, and the Kensei warriors.

The meaning behind these designations goes way beyond whether your unit is a part of host wing or is an associate unit.

They represent two of the admirable creeds that ancient Japanese warriors followed. These creeds are known to the Samurai as the Bushido, and to the Kensei as Essential Attitudes. Knowing and applying principles of these creeds in our everyday lives can make us better people and Airmen. It also goes a long way toward us understanding and appreciating our Japanese hosts.

Similar to chivalry codes in Europe, the Japanese warrior creeds rely on concepts of loyalty, self-sacrifice, justice, and martial spirit at its foundation. Through the practice of all of these attributes, the ancient warriors believed that they would come to truly know

themselves and their abilities.

Ancient warriors believed that knowing one’s self was the key to unlocking unlimited potential. With the confidence of knowing one’s self, the Samurai and Kensei would become fearless.

Let’s look how all of these traits can be applied to our Air Force lives.

⇒ **Loyalty** is a concept that every successful military unit must practice. We are taught from basic training to be loyal to the chain of command, our peers and our subordinates. Loyalty breeds loyalty. Mentoring fellow Airmen is a form of loyalty.

⇒ **Self-sacrifice** is inherent in military and civil service. Examples include staying late to finish a project, making time to attend an Airman Leadership School graduation, or volunteering and participating in base events.

⇒ **Justice** is core in the ancient creeds. Like the Samurai and Kensei warriors of past, we also see fraud, waste and abuse as lowly, inhumane and unacceptable. Battling injustice

was the primary concern of warriors.

⇒ **Martial spirit** is the last attribute of a true Japanese warrior. One doesn’t have to look very far to see how this concept is important to all of us today. As our fellow warriors are fighting for freedom in one way or another in countries across the globe, we must be ever mindful of the reasons we serve.

We are bound by our duty to prepare mentally and physically for our jobs. Both at home base and as a component of an Air Expeditionary Force. We must practice our operational art to the point where we can perform without hesitation at a moments notice like the Japanese warriors of old.

The Samurai and Kensei designations may appear to be something like a team logo, but to the trained eye it is an expression of the hopes of base leadership. They need us to apply the Air Force core values of integrity first, service before self, and excellence in all we do. The end result will be an elite fighting force accented by the ancient Japanese creeds we have taken to heart.



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The deadline for articles, briefs and classifieds is Wednesday the week before publication. For holidays, the deadline is one day earlier.

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DUI Prevention

March 15 – March 21	0
Total DUIs in March	0
Total in 2006	3

Punishment

.049 or less = car parked for 12 hours
.05-.079 = 6 months walking
.081-.149 = 1 year walking
0.15 or greater = 2 years walking

*Don't
drink and drive.
Call 225-RIDE!*

Action Line

E-mail: action.lines@yokota.af.mil

The Action Line is your direct line to me. Use it if you have questions or comments about Yokota, which couldn't be resolved by your chain of command first. When you send an e-mail, please include your name and phone number so you can be reached if more information is needed.

Col. Scott Goodwin

374th Airlift Wing Commander



High-school sweethearts win awards

By Master Sgt. Dominique Brown
374th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Two senior enlisted members here showed that being married and having a family doesn't keep them from reaching new heights.

Recognized in their career fields for the excellent contributions they provided in 2005, Master Sgts. Alisa and Therron Burns said the driving force in winning these awards was their dedication to each other and their family.

Master Sgt. Alisa Burns, Defense Finance and Accounting Service-Japan, Merged Accountability Funds Reporting Branch chief was recently awarded the DFAS 2005 Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year for the Department of Defense.

Master Sgt. Therron Burns, 374th Airlift Wing Command Post superintendent was selected as the 2005 Pacific Air Forces Command Post SNCO of the year.

Master Sgt. Alisa Burns said winning the award was an experience of a lifetime.

"I couldn't believe I had actually won," she said. "I was very proud to represent all the services and female service members."

"She was selected from the four services to win this prestigious award," said Senior Master Sgt. Stephen Dilda, DFAS-Japan superintendent. "Assigned to a joint DoD unit, she set the example for all to emulate. Her 'can do' attitude, teamwork approach and uncanny ability to overcome challenges led to this achievement."

A few of her many award winning accomplishments in 2005 included providing superior oversight and guidance while performing duties as an acting first sergeant

for 253 servicemembers; being nominated by her fellow troops for the DFAS-Japan SNCO Lance P. Sijan Leadership Award; receiving accolades from the Central Site Director for "the best year end closeout and conversion in DFAS history"; and receiving the Joint Service Achievement Medal for initiating the DFAS-Japan mobility program.

"Sergeant Burns is a stellar performer, yet never forgets to take care of the Airmen or where she came from," said Sergeant Dilda. "She clearly demonstrates our 'one team, one mission' philosophy at DFAS-Japan."

The hard working accountant credits her mother, Alovane Brantley, as the primary role model in her life.

"She raised six children by herself, worked to support us and instilled high values and work ethics," said Sergeant Burns. "She taught me to work to get what you want and to study hard to get an education."

"My family also inspires me to high achievements because if I want my children to be successful, I have to show them how first" said the career Airman, who was also just selected for senior master sergeant.

Her husband, Master Sgt. Therron Burns, said he was very happy to be recognized by Pacific Air Forces as the Command Post SNCO of the year for 2005, but more importantly to be able to represent his fellow Airmen in 374th Airlift Wing command post, whom he attributes for his recognition.

"My office partners are the hardest workers I ever met in my career, and Maj. (Mark) Polomsky, our command post chief, is all about the people in the command post; none of this would be possible without the team effort," he said.

Sergeant Burns was recognized for his accomplishments in 2005 including his deployment to Marine Camp Al Taq, Iraq, from May to September. A few highlights include being selected as the 374th Airlift Wing Staff Agency SNCO for the third and fourth quarters, and for 2005. He was recognized for his superintendent and first sergeant duties while deployed and also awarded "SNCO of the Month" for May, June and August in 2005.

"He is a true professional, and an outstanding role-model for his troops," said Maj. Mark Polomsky, 374th Airlift Wing Command Post chief. "He brings energy



photos by Master Sgt. Dominique Brown

Above, the Burns family enjoys the weekend after the Operational Readiness Inspection by spending quality time with one another at the base library. Left, Master Sgt. Therron Burns, 374th Airlift Wing command post, manually changes the combination lock on the command post door. The lock requires changing frequently to maintain a secure facility. Right, Master Sgt. Alisa Burns, Defense Finance and Accounting Services-Japan, balances daily funds for five Pacific Air Forces bases.

to the Command Center that fosters a desire for all around him to be their very best. There's no question he is the driving force behind our success."

Sergeant Burns said his primary role models are his step father, Wilbon McIntyre and his wife Alisa, who both came into his life around the same time.

"My stepfather married into a new family with three teenage boys and one teenage girl," said the sergeant. "He taught me all the basics, from how to change the oil in a car to being a gentleman."

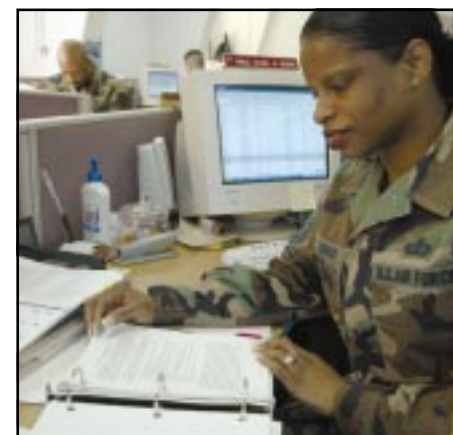
He also attributes his family for keeping him on track.

"If I have a bad day, they make it all better the minute I get home," he said. "My family is my life – without them I am nothing. Alisa and I push each other to succeed, we inspire each other and are mentors for each other, keeping each other in check."

Major Polomsky said, "Sergeant Burns is simply amazing. It's tough to keep everything on track, and maintain a balance between work and family. He does it to perfection, and makes it look so simple. This

is a family that really has it all together, and I'm certain we'll continue to see great things from them."

Although both sergeants are dedicated to their careers, they are equally dedicated to each other. Besides recently celebrating their awards, the high school sweethearts and Corpus Christi, Texas natives have been together for 24 years and celebrated their 19th wedding anniversary March 13, with their three children Teronica, 15, Tija, 5, and Therron II "Deuce," 3.



AD

Off base

Hamura City's Flower and Water Festival: Hamura City's cherry blossom trees and tulips will be in bloom through April 23. The trees and flowers can be seen near Hamura Dam and Negarami-mae's paddy field. Parking costs 500 yen per day.

Fussa Sakura Festival: The cherry blossoms along the Tama River between Nagata Bridge and Mutsumi Bridge will be celebrated March 31 to April 9 with Japanese music, dances, parades, taiko drum performances and more.

Hamarikyu Onshi Teien: This traditional Japanese garden dating back to the Edo Period will be in full bloom and lighted April 1 to 16 to celebrate its 60th anniversary under the Tokyo Metropolitan Government. It is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and it is a 15-minute walk from the JR Yamanote Line's Shinbashi Station. The cost is 300 yen for adults.

Hino Motor, Inc., Sakura Festival: This one-day festival April 8 will feature stage performances, food and game booths, and vehicle demonstrations from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. It is cancelled if it rains. The company is a 15-minute walk from JR Ome Line's Hamura Station.

Yagumo Jinja Spring Festival: This is a shrine festival located at Hamura Dam where they are paraded then placed into the dam's water. The festival is April 8 and 9. It is located near the JR Ome Line's Hamura Station.

Jazz concert: The Hamura Lifelong Study Center is hosting a jazz concert by a local musician April 8 beginning at 6:30 p.m. It is a 15-minute walk from the JR Ome Line's Hamura Station. The cost is 500 yen.

Dance Dance Dance 2006: The Yutorogi Dance-Off is April 9 at 1:30 p.m. at the Yutorogi Main Hall in Hamura City. Applications are now being accepted. Only the first 30 applicants will be accepted. Prizes include 50,000 yen for the contest champion. Dance styles include hip-hop, break dancing, free style and others. For more information, send a fax to Ms. Chiba at 042-570-6422.

On base

Movies

Today – *Shaggy Dog*, PG, 7 p.m.; *Tristan & Isolde*, PG-13, 9:30 p.m.

Saturday – *Shaggy Dog*, PG, 2 p.m.; *Glory Road*, PG, 7 p.m.; *Tristan & Isolde*, PG-13, 9:30 p.m. (adults only)

Sunday – *Shaggy Dog*, PG, 2 p.m.; *Glory Road*, PG, 7 p.m.

Monday – *Shaggy Dog*, PG, 7 p.m.

Tuesday – *Tristan & Isolde*, PG-13, 7 p.m.

Wednesday – *Shaggy Dog*, PG, 7 p.m.

Thursday – *Glory Road*, PG, 7 p.m.

All movies and showtimes are subject to change without notice. Call 225-8708.

Honor Guard

The base honor guard is holding a training seminar Monday through March 31 on the first floor of Tower 2000 from 5 to 6 p.m. Airmen will be evaluated at the end of the seminar. Uniform is BDUs. Call 225-8880.

New hours

The Civilian Personnel Flight is open 7:30 to 3 p.m. for walk-in and appointment customer service. Only appointments are taken from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Call 225-3913.

Hospital change

The Internal Medicine Clinic is moving into new offices located within the Family Practice Clinic. This provides patients with closer access to the pharmacy, lab and radiology. It will open March 27 at its new location. Call 225-6264.

Volunteers needed

Yokota East Elementary School's Parent-Teacher Organization* is sponsoring "Spring Fling" April 1 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. for students and their families. Volunteers are needed to help with food and games. Call 227-4026.

Yokota East Elementary

School also needs volunteers April 26 and 27 during its annual field day. Call 225-5503.

Bazaar

The annual Yokota Officers' Spouses' Club* Asian bazaar is April 1 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and April 2 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Hangar 15. Volunteers are also needed. Call 227-5009 or e-mail YOSCBazaarVolunteer@yahoo.com.

Dorm managers

The housing office is looking for a master sergeant and a technical sergeant to fill upcoming dormitory management positions. Call 225-8045.

Base assessment

The 374th Airlift Wing's Information Assurance Office is conducting a Telecommunications Monitoring and Assessment through May. This assessment is to certify telecommunications here are in compliance with Department of Defense regulations. All base personnel and units here and attached to Yokota may experience spot inspections during April. Call 225-9000.

Band competition

The Band of the Pacific-Asia is hosting its annual Young Artists Competition April 22 beginning at 9 a.m. Applications are available at the Yokota Middle and High Schools. Applications must be turned in by April 3 at 5 p.m.

UMUC

The University of Maryland University College is holding registration for Term 4 classes Monday to March 31. Call 225-8922 or visit <http://www.asia.umuc.edu>.

Women's History

Women's History Month is hosting a luncheon at the Officers' Club Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Community members should contact their unit first sergeant or call 225-5225 for more information or to reserve a seat.

Samurai Warriors



of the Week



Master Sgt. Faron Cluster

Master Sgt. Faron Cluster, 374th Logistics Readiness Squadron, is this week's Samurai Warrior of the Week for exhibiting the qualities of courage, sympathy toward all people, absolute loyalty to one's superior, and a duty to defend the honor of one's name and guild.

Sergeant Cluster is the noncommissioned officer in-charge of the Materiel Handling Equipment section where he is responsible for the overall repair and maintenance of Yokota's \$23M mission-critical fleet. He voluntarily deployed 16 out of the past 39 months under hazardous and austere conditions to selflessly serve the United States.

Hip Hop

The base chapel is hosting the "Attitude Determines Altitude" Outreach Conference about hip-hop music featuring G. Craige Lewis at the east chapel April 7 at 7 p.m., and April 8 at 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. The event is open to the community. Call 225-7009.

Yokota Singles

All Yokota singles are invited to a free dinner and Bible study beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the building behind the Traditional Chapel. A free coffee and snack bar is also open every Friday from 7 p.m. to 1 a.m. for all singles in the same building. Call 090-1107-2107.

Hospital feedback

The 374th Medical Group welcomes customers to leave comments or suggestions about the hospital on the group commander's line by calling 225-4719 or e-mail 374mdg.cs@yokota.af.mil.

Tax center

The base tax center is open

Mondays through Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Walk-ins filing 1040EZs are welcome Mondays through Wednesdays from 9 to 11 a.m. All other filers must call for an appointment. Call 225-4926.

Chapel Schedule

Traditional (West) Chapel

Catholic: Mass, Sundays at 9:15 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Protestant: Traditional service, Sundays at 11 a.m.; Liturgical service Sundays at 12:30 p.m.; Seventh Day Adventists, Saturdays at 9 a.m.

Contemporary (East) Chapel

Protestant: Gospel service, Sundays at 11 a.m.; Korean Service, Sundays at 2 p.m.; Contemporary service, Sundays at 5 p.m.

PO disclaimer

An asterisk (*) denotes a private organization. Private organizations are not a part of the Department of Defense or any of its components and have no governmental status.

AD

“Quotes” & Things

“I would get really close to him and breathe on his goggles.”

Johnny Kerr,
on the best way to guard
Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

Tae Kwon Do: Classes are held Tuesday and Thursday from 7 to 8:30 p.m., and Saturday from 1 to 2:30 p.m. at the Natatorium. Ages 16 and older are welcome to join. Call 225-6133.

Outdoor Rec: The Outdoor Recreation Center is offering the following snowboarding and skiing trips: Myoko Suginochara on March 25; Okutadami on April 5. Call 225-4552.

Karate: Free karate lessons are offered for ages six and older in the Natatorium’s aerobics room Saturdays from 3 to 5 p.m. Call 225-5880.

Half-marathon: Camp Zama is hosting a half-marathon, 5K and children’s race at Sagami Depot April 23. Call 263-5995.

Save Your Vision Month: March is recognized as Save Your Vision Month by the American Optometric Association. Keep eyes healthy by eating foods rich in antioxidants, washing hands after using household chemicals, and wearing the appropriate eye protection gear during various activities.

Submissions: Send sports stories, photos, stats and more to the newspaper staff for consideration at: fuji.flyer@yokota.af.mil.

~Experiencing ‘greens’ side at Tama Golf~

Community members can get away from the hustle and bustle of Tokyo life with a mere 45-minute drive.

The Tama Hills Recreation Center and Tama Golf Course is only 12 miles from base, and it features numerous activities.

The golf course is an 18-hole, par-72 nestled in the nature of Inagi City prefecture. A championship tournament is held during Labor Day annually, along with a Pro Am tournament and a ladies’ tournament.

To reserve a weekend or week day tee time, community members can call 224-3626 or fax their request to 042-371-3290. Tee times can be booked up to two weeks in advance for between 6:30 a.m. to noon. Yokota active duty and dependents have top priority for tee times.

Daily greens fees

- ⇒ E-1 to E-4: \$4
- ⇒ E-5 and above: \$8

Guest & LN employees fees

- ⇒ LN employee: \$55
- ⇒ Weekday guests: \$95 or 12,000 yen
- ⇒ Weekend guests: \$120 or 16,000 yen

Annual greens fees

(for sponsors, dependents and retirees)

- ⇒ E-1 to E-4, GS 1-4, NF I-II: \$87/\$43.50
- ⇒ E-5 to E-7, GS 5-7, NF III: \$175/\$87.50
- ⇒ E-8 to O-5, GS 8-14, NF IV-V: \$250/\$125
- ⇒ Handicap: \$24

Private lessons

- ⇒ SOFA retirees: \$25 each, \$40 couple
- ⇒ LN employees: \$30
- ⇒ Guests: \$35
- ⇒ Juniors: \$12.50

Course lessons

- ⇒ SOFA and retirees: \$50/\$100
- ⇒ LN employees: \$60/\$120
- ⇒ Guests: \$70/\$140

Rentals

- ⇒ Cart for 18 holes: \$5/\$10
- ⇒ Clubs: \$3
- ⇒ Shoes: \$1.50
- ⇒ Locker: \$2 daily, \$36 annually

(courtesy of 374th Services Division)

Illinois grounds Air Force season, 78-69

By Wayne Amann

U.S. Air Force Academy Public Affairs

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (AFPN) – Air Force lost to heavily favored Illinois, 78-69, in the first meeting between the two schools.

But, if there is such a thing as a moral victory in defeat, it was the Falcons’ season finale against last year’s championship runners up.

The bluesuiters gave up height, depth, quickness and a gym full of post-season tournament experience (26 NCAA appearances to four) to the Fighting Illini. Air Force, however, never gave up on itself.

The 13th-seeded Falcons kept the fourth-seed from the Big Ten Conference in their sights most of the game. A steal and driving lay up by junior forward Jacob Burtschi had Air Force nipping at Illinois’ heels, 39-38, with 16:19 left in the second half.

But the Illini reeled off a 6-0 run in the next 49 seconds to keep Air Force head coach Jeff Bzdelik’s crew at arms length.

“We simply could not get enough stops,” Coach Bzdelik said. “When we did, we couldn’t culminate it with a defensive rebound.”

Illinois out-rebounded the Falcons, 28-15. Seven were offensive boards.

Air Force kept the outcome in doubt most of the way – thanks to its three-point shooting.

The last lead the Falcons enjoyed was 11-9, courtesy of a Burtschi 3-pointer with 12:02 remaining in the first half.

Air Force set a Cox Arena NCAA Tournament record for three-point field goals made (13) and attempted (28). Junior guard Matt McCraw led the way going 4-for-5 from beyond the arc.

Meanwhile, Jamar Smith stole the long-range shooting show, and basically the game, for Illinois. The 6-foot 3-inch freshman guard came off the bench and torched the country’s no. 1-ranked Falcons’ defense for six 3-pointers in nine attempts, en route to a game-high 20 points. That tied an NCAA Tournament school record for three-point field goals made.

Smith and fellow reserve, junior forward Warren Carter, combined for 32 points on 13-for-18 from the floor.

“We did our best to shut down their power (seniors James Augutine, 10 points, and Dee Brown, eight points), but their younger guys came up big,” Burtschi said. “That’s what team with stars like that do.”

“Smith and Carter terrorized us,” said Falcon senior guard Antoine Hood who scored a team-high 17 points and dished out six assists in his final game at Air Force.

Burtschi, McCraw and junior forward Dan Nwaelele each scored for 13 points, while center John Frye added eight. The Falcons shot 51 percent from the floor (21-for-41 against the No. 1 rated defense in the Big Ten.)

That was negated by Illinois shooting a season-high 58 percent (29-for-50), including 64 percent (16-for-25) in the second half.

(Courtesy of Air Force Print News)



photo by Danny Meyer

Falcon forward Jacob Burtschi flies to the basket above Illinois guard Dee Brown during the March 16 game.

Want more NCAA action?

Stay tuned to AFN Sports!

AD